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Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Working Together for Student Success

TO: Superintendents, Principals, School Leaders
FROM: Dr. Charity Flores, Director of Student Assessment
DATE: August 21, 2017
RE: ISTEP+ and IREAD-3 Online Testing

Online Testing Expectations and Waiver Requests:

The Indiana Department of Education recently released an RFP for the ILEARN assessment. In the RFP, the Department requests vendors to propose solutions utilizing computer adaptive testing, with online testing being the sole mode for test administration in 2018-19. As such, the Department requests your thoughtful consideration for the 2017-18 implementation of ISTEP+ as we prepare for this transition. Considerations for this transition include:

- Paper/Pencil and online test items are independently scaled when performance differs across modes, which eliminates or minimizes any differences between test modes.
- Paper document printing, shipping, and processing for the ISTEP+ Part 1 Spring 2017 administration cost 4,000,000 dollars.
- Instruction must align to the Indiana State Standards with regards to technology integration. Schools preparing their students and staff members to fully participate online for ILEARN in 2018-19 is critical.
- 91% of students tested online during the ISTEP+ Part 2 Spring 2017 administration.

The State Board of Education reviewed the Department's recommendation that corporations, charters, and non-public schools test at least two-thirds of their students online for the ISTEP+ Part 1 Spring 2018 administration. The expectation remains that schools will test all of their students online for the ISTEP+ Grade 10 Winter Retest (Parts 1 and 2), ISTEP+ Part 2, and IREAD-3, with the exception of any student who has a Paper Format test accommodation. The Department and Pearson technicians will work closely with schools to assist with meeting online testing expectations for 2017-18.

Corporations and/or schools with technology capacity issues that cannot meet the online testing expectations in 2017-18 may submit a Waiver Request Form, which will be released during the waiver request windows. There will be three options for requesting an online testing waiver:

- Pathway 1: Lack of Testing Devices
- Pathway 2: Lack of Network Stability
- Pathway 3: Lack of Instructional Technology Implementation

Please see below for important dates pertaining to the waiver request process:

- **September 11-22:** Waiver request window for the ISTEP+ Grade 10 Winter Retest *only*
- **October 16 (on or before):** Final determinations for Paper/Pencil mode approvals posted for the ISTEP+ Grade 10 Winter Retest
- **November 6-10:** Local infrastructure trials (Note: A local infrastructure trial will be required to request a Pathway 2 waiver for Spring assessments.)
- **November 6-17:** Waiver request window for Spring 2018 assessments
- **January 8 (on or before):** Final determinations for Paper/Pencil mode approvals posted for Spring 2018 assessments

NOTE: Corporations and/or schools that are granted a waiver must develop a plan for increasing the number of compatible testing devices, improving network stability, and/or increasing instructional technology implementation for 2018-19. The Department is available to discuss options or offer guidance to ensure a successful transition.